

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all other versions of claims previously presented.

**Listing of Claims:**

1 (Currently Amended): A secondary battery comprising: a positive electrode; a negative electrode; a porous electron-insulating layer adhered to a surface of at least one selected from the group consisting of said positive electrode and said negative electrode; and an electrolyte,

wherein said porous electron-insulating layer comprises a particulate filler and a resin binder, and said particulate filler substantially comprises indefinite-shape particles which have the shape of dendrites, grape clusters, or coral,

wherein said indefinite-shape particles comprise a plurality of primary particles bonded to each other, said indefinite-shape particles having bonding portions of said primary particles, said bonding portions comprising the same material as said primary particles.

2 (Currently Amended): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein a neck is formed in at least one of said bonding portions, between at least a pair of said primary particles that are joined to one another ~~and that form said indefinite-shape particles.~~

3 (Canceled)

4 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said indefinite-shape particles have a mean particle size that is twice or more than twice the mean particle size of said primary particles and not more than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said indefinite-shape particles comprise a metal oxide.

6 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 5, wherein said particulate filler further comprises resin fine particles.

7 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said resin binder comprises a polyacrylic acid.

8 (Original): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said positive electrode comprises a composite lithium oxide, said negative electrode comprises a material capable of charging and discharging lithium, and said electrolyte comprises a non-aqueous solvent and a lithium salt dissolved in the non-aqueous solvent.

9 (Original): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a separator sheet that is interposed between said positive electrode and said negative electrode, said separator sheet being independent of both said positive electrode and said negative electrode.

10 (Currently Amended): A secondary battery comprising: a positive electrode; a negative electrode; a porous electron-insulating layer adhered to a surface of at least one selected from the group consisting of said positive electrode and said negative electrode; and an electrolyte, -

wherein said porous electron-insulating layer comprises a particulate filler and a resin binder, and said particulate filler substantially comprises indefinite-shape particles, wherein said indefinite-shape particles comprise a plurality of single crystalline particles bonded to each other and a neck [[is]] formed, by partially melting said plurality of single crystalline particles, between at least a pair of said single crystalline particles that are joined to one another and that form said indefinite-shape particles, said neck comprising the same material as said single crystalline particles.

11 (Canceled)

12 (Currently Amended): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 10, wherein said indefinite-shape particles have a mean particle size that is twice or more than twice the mean particle size of said ~~primary~~ single crystalline particles and not more than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

13 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 10, wherein said indefinite-shape particles comprise a metal oxide.

14 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 13, wherein said particulate filler further comprises resin fine particles.

15 (Currently Amended): The secondary battery in accordance with claim ~~[[1]]~~ 10, wherein said resin binder comprises a polyacrylic acid.

16 (Currently Amended): A secondary battery comprising: a positive electrode; a negative electrode; a porous electron-insulating layer adhered to a surface of at least one selected from the group consisting of said positive electrode and said negative electrode; and an electrolyte,

wherein said porous electron-insulating layer comprises a particulate filler and a resin binder, and said particulate filler substantially comprises indefinite-shape particles, wherein said indefinite-shape particles are polycrystalline particles comprising a plurality of single crystalline particles that are diffusion bonded to each other.

17 (Currently Amended): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 16, wherein said indefinite-shape particles have a mean particle size that is twice or more than twice the mean particle size of said ~~primary~~ single crystalline particles and not more than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

18 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 16, wherein said indefinite-shape particles comprise a metal oxide.

19 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 18, wherein said particulate filler further comprises resin fine particles.

20 (Previously Presented): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 16, wherein said resin binder comprises a polyacrylic acid.

21 (New): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said same material as said primary particles is a metal oxide.

22 (New): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 1, wherein said indefinite-shape particles are adhered with said binder.

23 (New): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 10, wherein said neck comprises a metal oxide.

24 (New): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 10, wherein said indefinite-shape particles are adhered with said binder.

25 (New): The secondary battery in accordance with claim 16, wherein said indefinite-shape particles are adhered with said binder.